Rusk Promises To Keep U. S. Troops In Europe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk has ruled out any major withdrawal of U.S. troops from Germany. He said European allies have been assured "our forces will remain there as long as they are needed and wanted."

Rusk also told a news conference Friday he hopes members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization can reach firm decisions soon on plans for removing NATO's military headquarters and bases from France.

He said ways to improve East-West relations will be discussed extensively when he and other allied foreign ministers gather in Brussels June 6 for a NATO Council meeting.

His comments came as an allied move was reported under way in Europe to respond to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko's call for a Pan-European security conference.

Denmark plans to broach the idea at the Brussels meeting. Qualified diplomats in London said the United States and various other allied countries reacted cautiously but not adversely when notified of the Danish intention.

Any conference on European security would center on the continued division of Germany 26 years after the start of World War II. West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard spoke of this division Friday when he said one of the great tasks of the Atlantic alliance is to begin a "real dialog" with the Communist world.

"It is possible to ignore the displeasure of Germans over the division of their country," Erhard said. "It is not possible to ignore the confrontation of the world powers in central Europe which is bound up with this division."

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield has proposed thinning out U.S. forces in Europe and an Associated Press poll of 75 senators shows 44 favored some reduction in the 225,000-man U.S. force in Western Europe under NATO. Six U.S. Army divisions are in West Germany.